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Agenda item 8

DRAFT REPORT

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Addendum

PROGRAMME QUESTIONS: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1998-1999 (item 4 (a))

Section 8. Africa: New Agenda for Development

1. At its 13th meeting, on 18 June 1997, the Committee considered section 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999.

Discussion

2. Several delegations stressed the priority attached to programme 6, Africa: New Agenda for Development, in the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 and expressed their support for the activities proposed under section 8. They expressed the view that the proposed resources under section 8 did not adequately address the needs of Africa and should be strengthened. Some delegations considered that the allocation of resources between subprogrammes did not fully reflect the present priorities within programme 6 and that increased resources should be allocated to subprogramme 2.

3. Several delegations emphasized the special role of the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa in galvanizing United Nations system efforts for the implementation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s. In this context they were of the view that the activities proposed in the section, in particular those under subprogramme 1, did not adequately reflect the need for coordination with other programmes and

initiatives on African development. Others emphasized the role of the Special Coordinator for Africa and Least Developed Countries in the coordination of system-wide activities concerning Africa, as well as in global advocacy and mobilization of support for the development of Africa. Many delegations stressed the urgent need for better coordination at all levels between the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and the new Special Initiative.

4. Some delegations were concerned about the possible overlap and duplication between the activities proposed under subprogrammes 1 and 2, as well as with the activities of other institutions and programmes in Africa, in particular those operating within the framework of the System-wide Plan of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development and the United Nations Special Initiative on Africa.

5. Some delegations were of the view that in the forthcoming restructuring of the Secretariat, the activities under section 8 and the organizational units responsible for their implementation should continue to retain their distinct identity, in order to ensure full and timely implementation of programme 6. Other delegations expressed the view that those organizational units should be merged with other relevant organizational units of the Secretariat or consolidated under the umbrella of a high-level official of the Secretariat to be responsible for the implementation of all action programmes on African development.

6. Some delegations expressed their support for the activities of the Department of Public Information proposed under subprogramme 3. Other delegations expressed the view that the activities under subprogramme 3 should place more emphasis on highlighting national efforts in promoting African economic development. Yet others suggested that resources might be redistributed among the subprogrammes.

Conclusions and recommendations

7. The Committee recommended to the General Assembly that it approve the programme narrative of section 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, subject to further consideration as stated in paragraph 35 of the introduction.

8. The Committee also recommended that the element of South-South cooperation of the narrative of subprogramme 1 be fully implemented and reinforced.